

# the RARS *Exciter*

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society



Worldwide Friendship

November 2004, Number 403



#### ABOVE: RARS 2004 AUCTION

There were 74 items sold at this year's auction. A few found some super deals. Cliff AG4XR was the auctioneer with Alan AB4OZ, Clare N2RJB, and Hank K4HM as the helpers.

RIGHT: This year's Eastern NC MS150 was huge - about 1400 bikes, spilling out onto the road at the lunch stop. The Highway Patrol officer stayed with the Tour both days, and was first-on-scene at one of the minor accidents.



Photos by Denyse K4DAW and Gary KN4AQ

## *The Exciter*

The *Exciter* is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is first Friday of the month or Friday after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

## *The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society*

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friend-ship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site ([www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)).

### **EXCITER EDITOR:**

**Denyse Walter  
K4DAW  
919-468-5358  
[k4daw@nc.rr.com](mailto:k4daw@nc.rr.com)**



## **OFFICERS**

### **PRESIDENT:**

**Andy Peterson NI4S  
919-845-6251  
[ni4s@arrl.net](mailto:ni4s@arrl.net)**

### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Dick Bitner W8HYD  
919-872-6802  
[ncsol@bellsouth.net](mailto:ncsol@bellsouth.net)**

### **SECRETARY:**

**Virginia Enzor NC4VA  
919-469-8555  
[kg4pfa@aol.com](mailto:kg4pfa@aol.com)**

### **TREASURER:**

**Greg Seamster KE4PAX  
919-859-0029  
[ke4pax@arrl.net](mailto:ke4pax@arrl.net)**

### **RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:**

145.13 (82.5 PL)  
146.64  
224.64 (Temporarily off the air)  
444.525 (82.5 PL)

**WEB SITE** [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)



## **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

A big thanks to everyone who helped make this year's MS-150 event a success. With over 45 hams participating, the record-high number of bikers was

no problem from a communications standpoint.

Thanks also to everyone who brought items to, or took them home from the auction! We'll look forward to doing it again next year.

Andy NI4S

*The Exciter goes to the printer the first Monday after the general meeting.  
Electronic mailing is the same week.  
Printing and mailing may vary.*

## **RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS**

**Date:** *Every first Tuesday of the Month*

**Location:** *Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark Avenue, in Raleigh*

**Time:** *7:30pm. Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.*

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID and the original copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org) for more information.

The RARS 145.13 Repeater is waiting for YOU! PL 82.5 Tone

# Announcements

***NEXT RARS MEETING:  
NOVEMBER 2, 2004  
Program: 3B9C DXpedition***

**DINNER CHANGED TO  
2nd Tuesday of the month**



## DID YOU KNOW.....

There is a dinner once a month, known as the RARS Dinner, where hams and non-hams get together to eat, socialize and become better acquainted.

Are you looking for a ham-related activity that your spouse, date, or family can participate in, even if they don't want to be an amateur radio operator? This is it. Do you want to meet interesting, likeable people in a nice environment? This is for you.

Come join us on the **2nd** Tuesday of each month. We are currently meeting in the private dining room at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue. People start arriving around 6:30 P.M., and things usually wind down by 8 P.M. or so. You can come whenever it's convenient for you. This gathering is open to anyone, RARS and non-RARS members, adults and children alike. Hope to see you there.

CONGRATULATIONS: Baby BOY to Richard KB4TKQ and his wife Mary. 8lbs 1 oz, 22", born July 2.

## ANNIVERSARIES:

Hank K4HM & Selene KG4RMT, 38th, 10/8  
Dennis K4DAM & Sharon, 35th, 10/11

## BIRTHDAYS

Rod	AB4RG	10/05
Dale	W4AUV	10/05
Kathleen	KA2SBC	10/06
Mike	K4PSP	10/09
Rick	KA3PSK	10/09
Richard	KB4TKQ	10/15
Tim	W4NOT	10/17
Mike	K4DRT	10/19
Ken	N4VQO	10/19
Gary	KN4AQ	10/22
Vince	WA2SRZ	10/28
Ken	KD4JMK	10/29

## RARS MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership renewals and new membership dues can be paid at RARS meetings, online at the RARS website, or mailed to the RARS treasurer. Mail To:

Greg Seamster RARS Treasurer  
1405 Leanne Court  
Raleigh, NC 27606

RARS now accepts credit card payments online for new members and membership renewals. See the RARS website ([www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)) for more information. You can join or renew for 1, 2, or 3 years.



## LOOKing Back 30 Years

*Taken from the October 1974 Exciter*

RARS was well represented with approximately 20 members at the Shelby Hamfest. Several members attended the first meeting of the North Carolina Amateur Radio Council. It was voted by the 20 or so present to form an NCARC Board made up of the club representatives with Mac McIntyre WA4FFW, of Burlington as chairman. Initial funding will be provided by the amateur radio clubs of North Carolina in the way of a charter membership fee.



## LOOKing Back 10 Years

*Taken from the October 1994 Exciter*

The RARS annual picnic will be held on Oct 8, 1994 at the ABB plant on US 1. Festivities will be starting around 2PM and feasting will begin around 4PM. A pig barbeque will be the feast. RARS will be buying some kind of packet networking equipment to be used by the Wake Digital Communications Group to upgrade the packet network in the area. RARS will also be funding the ATV repeater being built by the Triangle ATV Association. There's a new 10 meter repeater on the air. The frequency is 29.680 MHz output with the repeater input on 29.580. The receiver is currently up about 170 feet in Wendell, NC while the transmitter is temporarily located about 13 miles northeast of Zebulon and runs about 50 watts output.

### HAMFEST CALENDAR

October 23	Sumpter, SC
October 30	Myrtle Beach, SC
<b>November 21</b>	<b>Benson, NC--JARSFEST</b>
December 4	Gastonia, NC
January 8, 2005	Winston-Salem
February 5	Charleston ARS, SC
February TBA	Richmond, VA Frostfest
March 6	Kinston, NC
March 12-13	Charlotte, NC
<b>April 17th</b>	<b>Raleigh, NC--RARSFEST</b>
<b>May 20-22</b>	<b>Dayton, OH</b>
May 21	Williamston, NC
May 28*	Durham, NC
June 11	Winston-Salem, NC
<b>June 25-26</b>	<b>FIELD DAY</b>

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal  
\*Date is not confirmed



## **NEW HAMFEST!**

The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club  
announces a new hamfest:  
the Winston-Salem Winter Swapfest  
Saturday, January 8, 2005  
8:00 AM to Noon  
at the Summit School  
2100 Reynolda Road (Across  
from Reynolda House)

## **NET REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2004**

### **8:00PM DAILY: RARS Evening Net**

**Participants 563**  
**Traffic 35/33**  
**Time 843 minutes**  
**Sessions 30**

### **8:30PM SAT: Tech & Traders Net** **9:00PM MON: SWL/SIG**

**Participants 56**  
**Traffic 0/0**  
**Time 419 Minutes**  
**Sessions 8**

146.88 145.39, 147.105, & 147.135 Repeaters  
are supported by PCRN if you would like to  
donate please make checks to:

PCRN  
PO Box 12734  
Raleigh, NC 27605

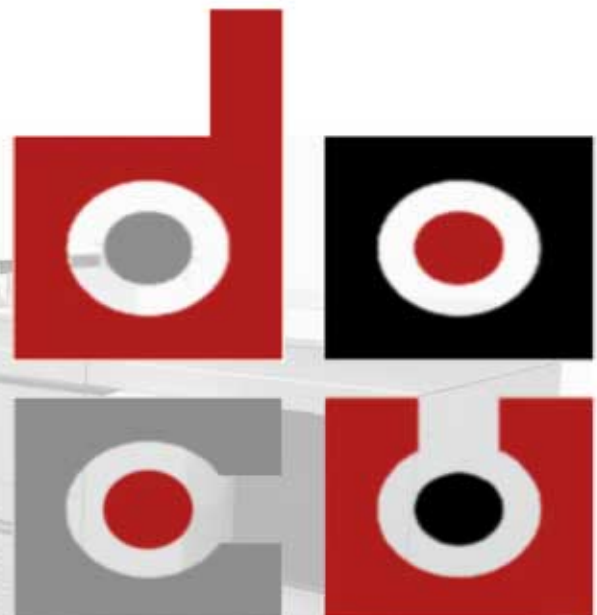
More info at [www.pcrn.net](http://www.pcrn.net)

- Digital print-on-demand
- Both small and large format
- Color and black & white
- High-volume print solutions
- One-to-one marketing solutions
- Full service bindery and finishing

[www.docusourceofnc.com](http://www.docusourceofnc.com)

951 Aviation Parkway  
Suite 600  
Morrisville, NC 27560  
919-459-5900

Centrally located in the heart of the Triangle!



**DOCUSOURCE**

relax; **docu**source it.

## Minutes of the RARS Board Meeting August 17, 2004

The RARS board meeting was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Tuesday, August 17, 2004. Members present were W8HYD, K1RCB, K4RLC, KG4PFA, KG4OQA, K4HF, K4MJL, K4HM, KG4RMT, KN4AQ, NI4S, K4DAW, and K4FIJ.

President Andy Peterson, NI4S, called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m.

The minutes from the July board meeting were presented and approved.

### Officers' Reports

**Treasurer's Report** (KE4PAX): In absence of KE4PAX, Andy Peterson, NI4S, reported that there were 213 members.

**Vice President's Report** (W8HYD):

\*A class will start in September for preparation for the Technician license, and a General preparation class will follow.

\*The September RARS program will feature John Van Pelt of Central Carolina Skywarn. His topic will be tornadoes.

\*The October program will be the RARS Auction.

### Committee Reports

**FM committee** (KA2FWC): In absence of KA2FWC, Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, reported that SERA will coordinate a 146.64 repeater on the coast some time in the future.

**Exciter** (K4DAW): Nothing to report

**Net Manager** (KG4OQA): The nets are going fine. Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, added that Mike Murphy, WA4BPJ, will host the ARRL news hour.

**Web Master** (W4NOT): No report

**Membership** (K4DAW): Nothing to report

**Hamfest** (K4HM): Hank Montgomery reported that the first meeting for RARSfest 2005 is 5-6 weeks away and volunteers are needed.

**Field Day** (N4HAF): No report

**Public Information** (KN4AQ): Gary Pearce reported that an article on amateur radio and BPL has not yet appeared in The News and Observer.

**Education** (K4RLC): Nothing to report

**VE Team** (WA4GIR & KO4CK): No report

**Public Service** (K1RCB):

\*The MS-150 will be held in New Bern on September 11-12, and volunteers are needed.

\*The Autism Ribbon Run will be held in Raleigh on October 9, and volunteers are needed.

\*The NC Road Runners Club will sponsor an event in Umstead Park in October.

\*Bob Breyer, K1RCB, will update the public service star chart.

**ARRL Liaison** (K4HF): Chuck Littlewood reported that W3IZ has taken over as ARRL liaison to clubs.

**Nominating Committee** (K4HF): No report

**W4DW/W4RNC Trustee** (AC4ZO): No report

**At-Large Directors** (WA9SZL, K4FIJ & KG4RMT):

Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, reported that positive comments were heard during the August general meeting regarding members sharing about their radio history and interests.

**Special or Ad Hoc Committees:** No report.

### Unfinished Business:

According to Membership Chair Denyse Walter, K4DAW, greeters were successful in welcoming visitors and new members at the August meeting.

### New Business:

Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, will chair the Nominating Committee; Bob Breyer, K1RCB, and Dick Bitner, W8HYD, volunteered to serve on the committee.

\*The October club meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. to accommodate the auction. Names of possible auctioneers were discussed.

\*Dick Bitner, W8HYD, received a request from a member of TEARA asking if the RARS monthly dinner might be moved to another night. A move would allow TEARA members to attend also. The suggestion was made that those who normally attend the dinner should make the decision.

On motion by Bob Conder, K4RLC, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Virginia Enzor, NC4VA, Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

## HF Contest Season

By Andy NI4S

While the holiday season is ready to hit full swing, the Contest season is underway as well! Whether you're in it to see how many QSOs you can make, improve your scores from year to year, or just grab some new states/countries/prefixes, it can be fun to try a contest every now and then.

Some of the upcoming events:

CQ Worldwide DX, Phone.

October 30-31 (48 hours; 8pm Friday through 7pm Sunday).

The CQ WW is my favorite DX contest. The exchange is "59" for a signal report, plus your CQ zone. We're in zone 5, so send "five nine five" or "five nine zero five". Expect 59 and a zone back from the other station. You can even work stations again on new bands. Lots of fun. See [www.cqww.com](http://www.cqww.com).

November Sweepstakes, CW.

November 6-8 (24 hours "on" between 4pm Saturday through 10pm Sunday)

Sweepstakes is my favorite Domestic contest. More details on the exchange below. If you're like me and can't hang with the 30 WPM crowd, you can still grab a lot of contacts on Sunday -- folks will be VERY anxious to work you. Note that if you want to work it full time, you must take "off time" for 6 of the 30 hours, in 30-minute or longer blocks. This makes Sweepstakes a very "friendly" contest.

See [www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/novss.html](http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/novss.html)

November Sweepstakes, Phone.

November 20-22 (24 hours between 4pm Saturday and 10pm Sunday)

The Sweepstakes exchange is complicated! Before you get on, know what you need to send. Here's a sample exchange:

"CQ SS CQ SS from NI4S" "AG4QZ"

"AG4QZ thanks number 421 alpha NI4S 92 North Carolina"

First, I send a serial number. Your first contact gets #1, second gets #2, etc. Then the power/category. For low power, use A. For high power (> 100W), use B. QRP is Q. There are some others; check the rules for multiop, etc. Then send your call, and the last 2 digits of the year you were first licensed. After that, it's the ARRL section (just like Field Day.) There are 80 sections, and you can find a list at the ARRL.

It may seem daunting, but once you get into the rhythm of Sweepstakes, it's addicting!



## Minutes of the RARS General Meeting October 5, 2004

President Andy Peterson, NI4S, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The following visitors were recognized and welcomed: Joe Tripp, KG4WMP, and Rick Eilers, K4RLE.

### Announcements

Public Service Chairman Bob Breyer, K1RCB, announced that volunteers are needed to serve with the Red Cross at the N.C. State Fair.

### Business

Nominating Committee Chairman Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, presented the slate of nominees for the year 2005. They are:

### Officers for a 2 year term:

Vice President: Dick Bitner, W8HYD

Treasurer: Greg Seamster, KE4PAX

Secretary: Dick Orander, KD4ISC one yr to finish out term of present secretary

### Board Members for a 1 year term:

Public Service Director: Open

Public Information Officer: Gary Pearce, KN4AQ

RARS 2005 Hamfest Chair: Hank Montgomery, K4HM

RARS Exciter Editor: Denyse Walter, K4DAW

RARS Net Manager: Mary Holtschneider, KG4OQA

At-Large Director: Johnnie Mayfield, WA9SZL

At-Large Director: Bob Breyer, K1RCB

At-Large Director: Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT

At-Large Director: Jim Walter, K4FIJ

FM Repeater Chair: Gary Pearce, KN4AQ

RARS Membership Chair: Denyse Walter, K4DAW

ARRL Liaison: Chuck Littlewood, K4HF

W4DW, W4RNC Trustee: Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO

Education Director: Open

### Committee Chairmen:

RARS 2005 Field Day Chair: Neal Fisher, N4HAF

RARS Volunteer Exam Coordinators: Liz White, KO4CK and White, WA4GIR

RARS Web Master: Tim Nicholson, W4NOT

Elections will be held in November, and officers and board members will be installed in December.

### Program

The program featured the annual RARS auction with Cliff Broughton, AG4XR, serving as auctioneer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia Enzor, NC4VA,  
Secretary



Photos by Denyse K4DAW

# Target Your Market

*Our Complete Line of Direct Mail and Printing Services Include:*

- Custom Design & Layout
- Professional Printing
- Mailing Lists
- Mailing Labels
- Ink Jet Addressing
- Sorting - Folding
- Inserting - Metering
- Hand Signatures
- *Personal Service*

**One-Stop  
Shopping  
Convenience**

**HPM**  
**HIGH PERFORMANCE MARKETING**

"For All Your Direct Mail & Printing Needs"

**919-870-9915**

J. Jay Langley  
PO Box 97744  
Raleigh, NC 27624  
fax: 919-844-0871  
PostcardS@bellsouth.net





NEWS

**The Central Carolina  
Skywarn Net Meets  
Tuesdays at 9:15 PM  
on 146.88 Repeater**

Website: [www.ccskywarn.net](http://www.ccskywarn.net)

## SKYWARN DINNER

The Skywarn dinner is October 31, 2004 at Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue at 6:00. Please join us, Danny KD4RAA will speak to us on IRLP/Echolink.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS;

The 6th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day will be December 4, 2004 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. We will meet at the Raleigh NWS to make contacts on HF, IRLP and 2 meter. There's limited room so we need to have names of those interested. Please contact Bob [wx4mmm@arrl.net](mailto:wx4mmm@arrl.net) or Denyse [k4daw@nc.rr.com](mailto:k4daw@nc.rr.com).



Don't drown, turn around. This doesn't look like much but it might be a disaster if you drive into it. This is rushing water going across a road. If you're not sure, turn around. You may save your life.

Hurricane season is NOT over. If we have another hurricane the place to go is: [www.voipwx.net](http://www.voipwx.net). Also John VanPelts [www.stormstudy.com](http://www.stormstudy.com) has a cam when he's on the road. One of the best sites is [www.hurricanetrack.com](http://www.hurricanetrack.com). They are in every hurricane with lots of information as it happens.

Jose KD4JWF was in the right place at the right time to get pictures of the downburst that did considerable damage at the RDU airport. The storm was the remnants of Hurricane Jeanne.



## MS150 EASTERN NC



Once again the net was controlled from the Carteret County Emergency Communications trailer, which has now been outfitted with air conditioning and an HF antenna. Pictured are Bob K1RCB, who coordinated communications and recruited hams in the Triangle area, and Bill K4VHO, who shared net control duties with Bruce N8UTY. Bill spearheaded the trailer project for CCARS.



Jeff AC4ZO and Bobbie KD4ZVW on motorcycle patrol, passing by Rest Stop 1/5. This was a pretty safe MS-150, especially considering the turnout. There were three hospital trips for a concussion, "road-rash" and heat stroke. No serious accidents and no broken bones.

Photos by Gary KN4AQ